

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Almasian et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 7,137,974. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the actuator of the patient connector is a push button or turning knob and that when the new closure plug is introduced into the patient connector, a fluid connection is produced by means of a single linear movement. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification in paragraph [0012].

As can be seen in FIG. 2, for example, by means of a linear introduction of the new closure plug, the push button of the patient connector is displaced back into its open starting position at the same time, and a fluid connection is produced, thereby making the patient connector available for a new connection/disconnection process (see also paragraph [0006] of

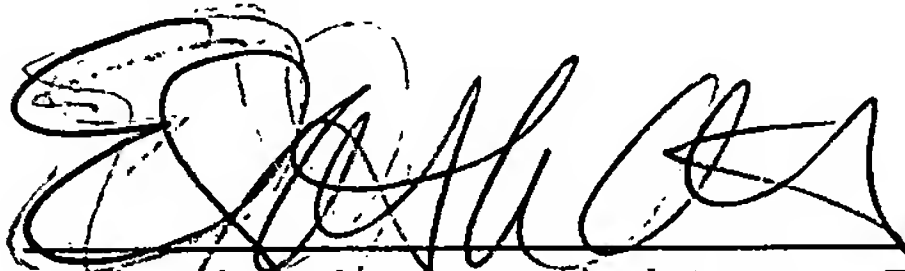
the specification). The introduction of the new closure plug and the restoration of a fluid connection take place with a single linear movement.

In contrast to this, in *Almasian et al.*, a closure plug is first introduced into the housing (8) in a linear movement. At this point in time, a fluid connection does not exist. Only in a second linear movement, which is carried out perpendicular to the first, are the closure elements displaced out of the fluid channel into the upper part of the housing (8) with a slide (10), in order to thereby produce a fluid connection.

In contrast, the present invention represents an improvement, since the device was created with clearly less design effort, and not only can a new closure plug be introduced, but also a fluid connection can be produced, with only a single linear movement.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are patentable over *Almasian et al.* Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

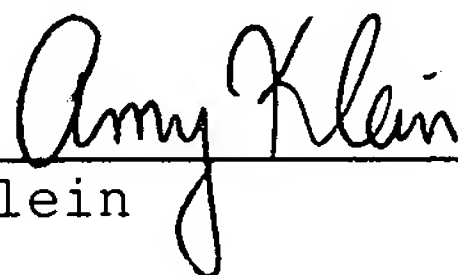
Respectfully submitted,
Wolfgang BIESEL ET AL.



Elizabeth C. Richter, Reg.No. 35,103
Attorney for Applicants

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802

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Amy Klein